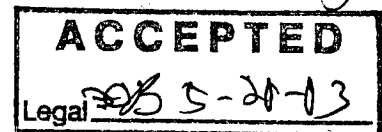


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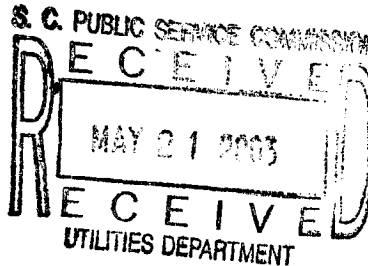
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May 20, 2003

The Honorable Gary E. Walsh
Executive Director
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Synergy Business Park, Saluda Building
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29211



Re: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for an Intrastate Universal Service Fund
Docket No. 97-239-C

Dear Mr. Walsh:

I am writing on behalf of the South Carolina Telephone Coalition ("SCTC") (see attached list of participating members) to request a second extension of time in which to file tariffs associated with the State Universal Service Fund. The Guidelines and Administrative Procedures for the State USF that were approved by the Commission in its Order No. 2001-996 provide that the tariff filings to reduce rates that include an implicit subsidy for the second phase of State USF are to be made on April 1, 2003. By Order No. 2003-222, the SCTC companies were granted an extension of time until June 1, 2003, in which to file tariffs and accompanying cost data. We are now requesting an additional extension of time until September 1, 2003, in which to make this filing.

The reason for this request is that it will be extremely difficult for most of the companies to complete the process of identifying those rates that contain implicit support for basic local exchange service, performing cost studies to quantify the implicit support, and putting together the information necessary to make the June 1 filing. While the companies have been working diligently to complete the work necessary, this process did not begin until late March, after the Commission took action on the request of six local exchange carriers to reduce rates and draw State USF in the end user step of the first phase of implementation of the State USF. The SCTC companies have been using a single telecommunications consulting firm to perform the necessary studies and analysis, in order to ensure consistency. In addition, some of the SCTC companies are nearing the threshold of 1/3 of company-specific State USF, which would require them to update their original cost of service studies before requesting additional State USF.

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-239-C

IN RE: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for)
 an Intrastate Universal Service Fund)
_____)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Rebecca W. Martin, a Secretary with the McNair Law Firm, P. A., do hereby certify that I have this date served one (1) copy of the letter requesting a second extension of time to file tariffs in the above-captioned action to the person(s) named below by causing said copies to be deposited with the United States Postal Service, first class postage prepaid and affixed thereto, and addressed as follows:

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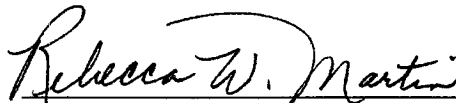
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May 20, 2003
Columbia, South Carolina